

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 has been labeled as "Prior Art".

Figure 2 has been amended to indicate the colored end by crosshatching.

Figures 2A and 2B have been added to indicate the presence of a tapered end and a reinforced portion.

Figure 8 has been amended to indicate the roll as wrapped in a simple flexible package.

Replacement drawing sheets are submitted herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 26-51 are pending in the present Application. Claim 26 has been amended, Claims 36-51 have been canceled without prejudice and Claims 52-54 have been added, leaving Claims 26-35 and 52-54 for further consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Support for the amendment to Claim 26 can at least be found in the corresponding discussion in the final paragraph on page 6 that continues to the top of page 7. Support for the new claims 52-54 can at least be found in paragraph 3 on page 11.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 36-51 have been cancelled without prejudice, including Applicants' right to file a continuation application thereon.

Objection to the Specification

The disclosure has been objected to due to the informality wherein "The 'Y' should be deleted and possibly replaced with '...'" Applicant believes the Office is objecting to "(10B₁, 10B₂, Y)" that appears on page 17, line 4. Applicants have amended the disclosure as suggested to correct this informality.

Drawings Objections

The drawings have been objected to because Figure 1 should be labeled as "Prior Art." The drawing Figure 1 has been amended to comply.

The drawings were further objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) in that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. More particularly, "the first strip being tapered (claim 31), visually reinforced by coloring (claim 33), mechanically reinforced by a supplemental element (claim 34), and first strip comprising an element joined onto a portion of an internal end of the sheet (claim 35) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)."

Figure 2 has been amended to indicate the colored end by crosshatching. Figures 2A and 2B have been added to indicate the presence of a tapered end and a reinforced portion.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 34 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

As discussed below, the Examiner has perceived an illusory ambiguity with respect to the meaning of “internal end” of the length of tissue. As there is only one internal end, it is respectfully submitted that it is well within the skill of the ordinary worker in the art to secure a reinforcement thereto. Even though the term “reinforcement” is broad, that alone does not make it indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that the choice of reinforcements and the method in which it is secured to the internal end of the tissue is well within the ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, no issues of new matter are raised. Accordingly, the claims comply with the enablement requirement, since the claimed subject matter is described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 35 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, “the claim does not claim where the element is joined onto a portion of an internal end of the sheet. For this action, any element connected to any internal end (or side) of the sheet will be considered as reading onto this claim.”

Attorney for Applicant's respectfully submits that on a single coiled sheet such as the presently claimed roll products, there are inherently only two ends: one external and one internal. Thus it appears that the ambiguity perceived by the Examiner is illusory. There is only one internal end to the coil which Applicants have claimed their reinforcing strip as being connected to.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection, since the

claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, there being only one internal end to a single coiled sheet as claimed in the present invention.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 26-27 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morand (US 5577634). Claims 26-27, 29, 32 and 34-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Larsson et al. (US 4760970).

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the * * * claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

As amended, claim 26 requires that the roll be wrapped in flexible packaging. The present Application is directed to resolving a longstanding problem experienced by users of center-pull tissue and toweling products -- getting the roll started, particularly if the center hole therein collapses. Neither Morand nor Larsson discloses a roll wrapped in flexible packaging. In both cases, it is evident that the references have nothing to do with the solution to this longstanding problem. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morand (US 5577634). Claim 33 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larsson et al. (US 4760970).

As mentioned, the invention in this application relates to the solution to a longstanding problem with center-pull towel and tissue products – making it easy to start them without waste, particularly when the center hole is reduced or collapsed. Applicants have resolved this issue by providing that the first strip forms a projection along the axis in relation to at least one part of at

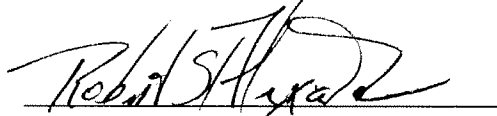
least one side of the roll. As this is accomplished automatically during the winding procedure, a wrapped roll having this easy to start structure can be formed on high speed machinery then automatically wrapped in flexible packaging. In contrast, Morand and Larsson have nothing to say about this issue but only disclose the operation of a dispenser using a roll in which the center hole has not collapsed and in which the first strip is already protruding from an unwrapped roll. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that neither Morand nor Larsson provides any instruction that would teach a worker how to resolve this issue and provide pre-packaged rolls in which the roll has in effect already been started for the user. Accordingly, to modify either Morand or Larsson to achieve the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that rolls would need to be started manually then packaged which would be completely impractical. Neither has any solution in regard to the most commonly encountered case in which the center hole has collapsed or reduced as set forth in newly added claims 52-54. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and all claims passed to issue.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 10-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Alexander", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert S. Alexander
Reg. No. 28,359
Georgia-Pacific LLC
1915 Marathon Avenue
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 729-8360

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